

REMARKS

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2, 3, and 5-7.

Claims 1 and 9 are objected to because of certain informalities. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended according to the Examiner's recommendation changing "mark" to "mask".

Claims 1, 4, and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Linghart, et al., (U.S. 6,509,679). The Examiner asserted that Linghart, et al., discloses the elements of claim 1 except for "a mask receiving edge to which said tension mask is applied." The Examiner further asserted that the use of a two-piece construction instead of a one-piece structure as disclosed by Linghart, et al., would be an obvious matter of design engineering. The Examiner then concluded that it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skills in the art to incorporate the two-piece assembly instead of the integral assembly disclosed by Linghart, et al., since the use of a two-piece construction would be an obvious matter of design engineering.

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to more clearly recite the claimed invention. The detailed description of the invention has been similarly amended to more clearly recite that the insert member is formed of a material which has a greater thickness than the tension mask thickness. No new matter has been added because these features are clearly shown in the cross sectional views of Figures 4 and 9. These features, namely the greater thickness of the insert member relative to the thinner tension mask, are significant and not a mere matter of design engineering since the thickness of the insert member adds structural rigidity to the tension mask where it is applied along the mask receiving edge. These features are not provided nor suggested by the Linghart reference, nor does the Linghart reference suggest the desirable improvement of providing added rigidity along a mask receiving edge of an insert

- Application No. 09/880,214
Reply to Final Office Action dated August 23, 2004

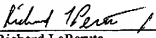
member. Considering these clarifying amendments, the applicant requests reconsideration and removal of the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a).

Minor typographical errors have also been correct by amendments to claims 3 and 4.

In view of the amendments presented here, Applicant submits this application to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and passage of the application to issue is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


Richard LaPeruta
Registration No. 51252
(717) 295-6207 Phone
(717) 295-6084 Facsimile

Dated: October 25, 2004

Patent Operations
Thomson Licensing Inc.
P.O. Box 5312
Princeton, NJ 08543-5312